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Historic Periods of Fredericksburg
1608-1861

BY
MRS. VIVIAN MINOR FLEMING



Published for the benefit of the
Fredericksburg Library Association

1921
W. C. HILL PRINTING COMPANY
RICHMOND, VA.

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FOREWORD.

For some years the Fredericksburg Branch of the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities has, through its historians, Miss Annie Braxton and myself, been searching for Fredericksburg's beginnings.

Through the help of Mr. Clayton Torrance we located the settlement (described by Col. Wm. Byrd on his visit in 1732), the wharf, the warehouses, Mrs. Livingstone's coffee-house, etc., on Sophia street, between Prince William and Amelia. This was called "The Leaseland," and the question was, "When was the land granted or leased." Some months ago Judge A. T. Embrey, who is so well informed and accurate in all these matters, gave me the paper which fixed the original date as May 2, 1671. Thus Fredericksburg began.

I gave this information to the A. P. V. A. and my husband, Mr. V. M. Fleming, gave it to the Chamber of Commerce the first week in March, 1921. Mr. W. L. Brannan, President of the Chamber of Commerce, with his usual fine enthusiasm, at once grasped the possibilities of the situation, and thus began Fredericksburg's 250th anniversary, celebrated on May 25, 1921.

These papers were prompted by Mrs. Alice Coghill, who desired this information put in popular form, so that the pageant, which she so wonderfully developed, might be understood by all. Since the celebration there have been many requests that they be preserved in more permanent form, and hence this pamphlet.

October 30, 1921.

MRS. VIVIAN MINOR FLEMING,

Fredericksburg, Va.

AN ABBREVIATED COPY OF THE LEASELAND GRANT.

To all &c., Now know yee that I the said Sr. William Berkeley, Knt. Gover, &c., Give and grant unto Mr. John Buckner, and Mr. Thomas Royston a tract of land lying in the County of Rappa, on the south side of the river in the freshes, *contayning* two thousand acres. *Beginning* at marked foure branch pine the uppmost corner tree of devident of land surveyed for Mr. Laurence Smith and bounding on the same S. W. by S. 2 degrees & $1\frac{1}{2}$ W. 1000 pole, thence N. W. 320 poles, & thence N. E. by Norley 2 degrees $1\frac{1}{2}$ E 1000 pole to the river, and finally by the river side according to its several courses to the first mentioned station, the said land being due by and for the transpor. of forty psons. into this Colony &c. To have and to hold &c., To be held &c., Yielding and paying &c., provided &c., Dated the 2nd day of May, 1671.

Jno. Busby.	Wm. Gradwick	Tho. Cheyney	Jno. Jones
Geo. Young.	Geo. Brooke.	Robt. Edwards.	Mary Tompson
Geo. Barker.	Hen. Casell	Blanch Harding	Jno. Wery
Mary Parker.	John Hanppnard.	Xper Edes	Wm. Wright.
Robt. Beecham	Ja. Barkhust.	Arabella Singleton	Robt. Rate.
Fran. Hardacre	Hen. Yowell	Mary Greeford	Jno. Kelley
Jno. Davis	Humphry Thomas	Ann Townsend	Jno. Farrell
Doreas Young	Wm. Greene	Jno. Flesswell	Robt. Thurston.
Daniel Grouch	Jno. Hunt.	Nuscuff Scilly	Robt. Hall.
Eliz. Sharps	Peter Colens		

SEAL OF
VIRGINIA
LAND OFFICE

LAND OFFICE, *Richmond, Va.*

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy from the records of this office.

Witness my hand and seal of office, this 1st day of July, 1913.

JNO. W. RICHARDSON,

Register of the Land Office.

FRAGMENT OF TOMBSTONE BEARING THE OLDEST
ENGLISH INSCRIPTION IN AMERICA.

This fragment is from the tombstone of Edmond Helder, found near Potomac Run, Stafford County, Virginia. The original inscription read as follows:

Here lies interred the body of Edmond Helder prectitioner in physick and chyrurgery, born in Bedfordshire, Obiit March 11, 1618. Atatis sua 76.
Exact copy of lettering is as follows:

HERE' LIES INT E RED
THE BOD OF EDMOND
HELDER PRECTIONER IN
PHYSICK AND CHYRURGE
RY BORN IN BEDFORDE
SHIRE OBIT MARCH 11
1618 S ATATIS S VA 76.

This inscription was preserved by Mr. C. J. Brown, who was a soldier in the 6th New Hampshire Volunteers, and was on guard duty near Potomac creek, August, 1862. While off duty and wandering about the country, he came across the old tombstone—then unbroken—and made an exact copy of the inscription. In 1884 Dr. Moncure D. Conway, who had become interested in tracing a legend that one of Shakespeare's pall-bearers was buried near Fredericksburg, found the fragments of the Helder stone, buried beneath the debris of a burned kitchen. The action of the fire had obliterated all of the lettering except what can be traced on this fragment—the H E and the beginning of the R of the opening word, H E R E, in the epitaph—but the place where the stone was found, the testimony of the neighbors who remembered the original inscription, Mr. Brown's description of the position of the stone and his careful copy of the epitaph, all combine to make it certain that this is actually a fragment of the tombstone of Edmond Helder, erected only eleven years after the landing at Jamestown, two years before the Mayflower touched Plymouth Rock, and bearing the oldest English epitaph in the New World.

(For further information concerning this stone and its finding, see article entitled "Hunting a Mythical Pall-Bearer," by Moncure D. Conway, published in Harper's Magazine, January, 1886.)

This fragment of tombstone is in the Mary Washington House. The fact that Dr. Helder was buried near Potomac Run in 1618 shows that this part of Virginia was settled then. The massacre of Opeacananough in 1622 wiped out all of these earlier settlements.

Historic Periods of Fredericksburg

1608-1861

HISTORIC PERIOD No. 1.

Captain John Smith and the Indians.

Captain John Smith sailed up the Rappahannock river as far as the falls in 1608, beginning his voyage July 24th. Three of his companions, Anthony Bagnall, Powell and Todkill, give a good account of this trip and there are maps showing the location of the various Indian tribes. As the river narrowed in the ascent they were assailed from both sides by showers of arrows. They disembarked near the foot of the falls, where there was no forest nor undergrowth to conceal their enemies, examined the stones, etc., looking for minerals. They were attacked, and in defending themselves an Indian was wounded and left for dead. They took him on board their boat, bound up his wounds and fed him. Mosco, a friendly Indian, who was their guide, wanted to kill him, but John Smith saved his life.

Through the mediation of this prisoner, the next day following, they opened negotiations with the Indians on the shore and peace was made. Several hundred Indians entered into friendly relations with Capt. John Smith and his party and furnished them with corn and abundant provisions.

Capt. Quinn gives a full account of all this in his "History of Fredericksburg," but when the National Geographic Society met here in May, 1895, one of their speakers told us that the "pow wow" was held on the Washington Farm and the "Pipe of Peace" was smoked. They probably had sources of information which are not available for us.

One of their party, Richard Featherstone, died on this trip and was buried near the rapids. Thus was Fredericksburg first consecrated with the life of a white man.

HISTORICAL PERIOD No. 2.—1671.

Major Lawrence Smith and the Early Settlers.

There is a tradition that there has been continuous white settlements in this locality since 1622. After the massacre of Oppecanough appeal was made to Jamestown for "Protection for all the section between the James and the Potomac." The gravestone of Edmund Helder, found near Potomac Run, Stafford county, dated 1618, eleven years after Jamestown was settled, shows that one plantation, at least, was settled.

Then there is Major Lawrence Smith. He took land up as early as 1665, before John Buckner and James Royster, because their boundaries began

where his ended. Judge Francis T. Brooke, in his narrative, says that he was born at Smithfield, four miles below Fredericksburg, in 1763, and he believes the place was named in honor of "Captain Lawrence Smith."

Now, who was Lawrence Smith? In Miss Dubellet's "Prominent Virginia Families" we find the following: Lawrence Smith, of York, and John Smith, of Gloucester, were contemporaries, probably brothers, as we have a record of a deed of land in Gloucester from Lawrence Smith to "my brother, John Smith," in 1666. John Smith was the ancestor of the Smiths, of Shooter's Hill. He and Lawrence Washington married sisters, daughters of Augustine Warner, hence the name Augustine in both families. Augustine Smith, probably a nephew of Major Lawrence Smith, was prominent in this locality early in 1700. However, to return, Major Lawrence Smith, of York, was a surveyor and engineer and was prominent and influential in the period immediately preceding the Bacon rebellion. He was, at a Grand Assembly at Jamestown, empowered to build a fort, with 200 soldiers, near the falls of the Rappahannock. Miss Dubellet says, in 1674. The fort was not constructed until 1679 and it is a mooted question whether it was built on the north or south side of the Rappahannock, but Major Smith probably built it where he could best guard his own estate. In 1686 Major Smith was surveyor of the counties of York and Gloucester. In 1691 he laid out the city of Yorktown. He died in 1700. His granddaughter, Lucy Smith, married Augustine Moore, a grandson, I believe, of Gov. Spottswood, and it was at their home, Temple Farm, that the articles of surrender of Lord Cornwallis were signed.

Now, John Buckner, Thomas Royster and the other early settlers. What of them? John Buckner, the immigrant, was the first man to use a printing press in Virginia. On February 24, 1682-83 he was called before Lord Culpeper and the Council for not getting his Majesty's license, and in 1690 Lord Howard granted instructions that "Henceforth no person be permitted to use a printing press in Virginia." John Buckner's sons owned land in both Stafford and Spottsylvania, so this John Buckner is probably the Buckner of the Leasland.

Thomas Royster we have not been able to find. Among the names of the early settlers are several still known in this section and all are found in the early records of the county.

Phillip Buckner took up land on the south side of the Rappahannock river in this section in 1672.

HISTORIC PERIOD No. 3. — 1714-1716.

Governor Spottswood—Germanna—The Iron Works— Knights of the Golden Horseshoe.

From the building of the fort and the settling of the two hundred soldiers and their families in 1681 up to the coming of Governor Spottswood there is no information available to us.

Governor Spottswood is a most interesting personage. He came to Virginia in 1710 and brought with him the Writ of Habeus Corpus, so

greatly desired by the colonists. He was one of the most energetic, patriotic and far-seeing statesmen that ever ruled Virginia. He had a distinguished ancestry and had fought with Marlborough. He established a school for Christianizing the Indians and donated one thousand pounds to a college for that purpose. Governor Spottswood first established post-offices in Virginia and was afterwards Deputy Postmaster-General of the Colonies.

Of the settlement of Germanna, Governor Spottswood writes: "I have placed there near the Rapidan a number of Protestant Germans, built them a fort, furnished it with two pieces of cannon and some ammunition, which will awe the straggling parties of Northern Indians and be a good barrier to all that part of the country." These Germans were from Musen, where they had been iron-workers, invited over by De Graffenried. They landed at Tappahamock. James Weaver, grandson of the emigrant, writes: "They packed their provisions from Fredericksburg on their heads all the first year of their occupancy," showing that Fredericksburg, at that time the Leaseland, was the trading point for that part of the country. They worked the iron mines with some success, and Governor Spottswood was deeply interested in pushing this, the first iron industry of the Colonies. This gave him the name of the "Tubal Cain of America."

Judge Brooke says in his narrative that Governor Spottswood made five thousand pounds a year with his iron works.

When Governor Spottswood retired from Williamsburg he came to Germanna and built himself a castle, where Col. Byrd visited him in 1732. He died in Yorktown and is buried at the Temple Farm. He was one of the ancestors of Gen. Lee. From his wife (Butler Brayne), through her second marriage, with the Rev. John Thompson, are descended some of the oldest families of Fredericksburg.

The episode of the "Knights of the Golden Horseshoe," as well as the iron mines of Germanna, shows Governor Spottswood as a man of vision.

In 1716, accompanied by John Fontaine (whose complete diary is in Captain Quinn's History of Fredericksburg), Robert Beverley, the historian, Col. Robertson, Dr. Robinson, Taylor, Todd, Mason, Austin Smith, Captain Clowder and Brooke, the ancestor of Judge Francis T. Brooke and Governor Brooke, four Indians and two small companies of rangers—about fifty in all. They had with them provisions, large numbers of riding and pack horses and an abundant supply of liquors, Virginia red wine, white wine, Irish Usequebaugh, two sorts of rum, Champagne, cherry, punch, cider, etc. They, with Governor Spottswood, started from Williamsburg on August 20, 1716, stopped at Austin Smith's in Fredericksburg and dined on the 24th, and left Germanna on the 25th. They drank his Majesty's health on the summit of the Blue Ridge, went on to the Shenandoah, which they called the Euphrates, and got back to Germanna on the 15th of September.

For the expedition a multitude of horse shoes had to be provided, which were not needed in the low country around Williamsburg, upon which account the Governor, on their return, presented each of his companions with a golden horseshoe set in jewels, with the inscription "Sic Juvat Transcendere Montes."

HISTORIC PERIOD No. 4.

Spotsylvania County—Stafford—Chatham—Falmouth.

In 1634 the House of Burgesses divided the colony of Virginia into eight shires. All this part of Virginia was called Rappahannock on both sides of the river.

In 1692 this shire was divided and lost its name. All on the north side of the river was Richmond county and on the south side was Essex.

The Leaseland was in Essex county until 1720, when a new county was formed—called Spotsylvania, after Governor Spottswood.

St. George's parish was erected about this same time, and the church building and glebe were not far from Germanna, on a hill west of Mine Run.

Stafford county history I am not familiar with. The nephew of Sir Walter Raleigh, Raleigh Travers, I believe was his name, had a grant of land in Stafford very early, and part of it is still owned by his descendants or connections.

We all know that Falmouth was laid out in streets and squares in 1720, before Fredericksburg. Its story will follow written by one familiar with its history.

From a brick picked up near the Chatham chimney, stamped 1721, we get approximately the date of that old colonial mansion, which is such a fine example of our early architecture and was built by one of the Fitzhughs. The original colonist by this name was William Fitzhugh, of Westmoreland. He came over in 1670. He was an eminent and successful lawyer and published a book in England on Virginia law. In all things he seemed to have acted with honor and principle. In one of his letters (there is a volume of them in the Historical Society rooms in Richmond) he speaks of being "neither in want nor abundance." But he had the opportunity of acquiring large tracts of land at a low price and left large estates to each of his sons. He was a man of liberality and deep religious convictions. His will is probated in Stafford county, 1701.

If Chatham was built as early as the brick indicates it must have been built by William No. 2, whose son, Henry, born in 1706, was the father of William Fitzhugh, whose large hospitality, rare wines, race course, etc., made Chatham famous. He named the place after his friend, the Earl of Chatham.

1720—Falmouth.

The old town of Falmouth, situated at the mouth of the Falls of the Rappahannock, in Stafford county, Virginia, was first built on fifty acres of land, purchased of Major William Todd in 1720, and regularly laid off in streets, squares and lots. Its government was vested in seven trustees appointed by the House of Burgesses of Virginia. The original trustees, as given by the old town record-book, were Robert Carter, President; Nicholas Smith, John Fitzhugh, Charles Carter, Henry Fitzhugh, John Warner, surveyor; and William Thornton.

In 1773, by an amendment of its charter, these trustees were made elective by the qualified voters of the town and their president empowered to act as mayor.

At the head of navigation of the Rappahamock river its situation made it formerly the market of all that section of the country lying above it between the Blue Ridge Mountains and Tidewater, which supplied it with grain for a great milling business and for export trade, for in those days Falmouth had a regular trade with foreign countries, a thing impossible for a great many years on account of the filling up of the river to an extent, rendering it no longer navigable to sea-going vessels.

Wagon trains, miles in length, loaded with grain, were frequently seen approaching it from the mountains, merchant ships anchored at its wharf to purchase flour and other products and sea captains and sailors moved constantly through its streets. Its storage capacity was not equal to its trade and hogsheads of **sugar and molasses** lined its streets and the road to Gordon's store, near the wharf. Basil Gordon, its owner, was the first millionaire in the United States. He built for his home the large brick house nearest the bridge, the tradition being that the bricks, brass locks, etc., were brought from England in his returning ships.

It was also prominent in military matters. The Falmouth Blues were led in the famous charge upon the redoubt at Yorktown by their brave commander, Captain William Payne. He was a citizen of Falmouth and raised the company referred to for the Revolution. He was given 3,000 acres by Virginia for his service during the war.

Above the town stood the residence of Col. Robert Carter, one of the first members of its municipal commission; below it the home of Augustine Washington, president of the Principia Iron Mines of Stafford—the home of the boy whose greatness had not yet flowered.

George Washington was born in Westmoreland, but reared in the present county of Stafford, and received at school in Falmouth intellectual training which prepared him for his future career as liberator of his country. In a sketch of family history, written by Washington himself, the only mention made of scholastic advantages is that he attended school there, and it has been well said that no other municipality, ancient or modern, has the distinction of having begun the education of the father of so magnificent a Republic. In this connection will say when Gen. Washington made his celebrated march from Long Island to Yorktown his troops came by the old stage road through Falmouth to Fredericksburg, thence to Yorktown.

Hon. Alexander H. Seddon, Secretary of War of our Confederacy, was one of its citizens, and it furnished distinguished officers and brave soldiers to the Lost Cause. Among the officers, Col. William Green, of the 47th Virginia Regiment, who was killed while marshalling his forces, not far distant from where his grandfather, Captain William Payne (above mentioned), led his nearly a century before. Capt. Jack Forbes and Sergeant George Kelly also gave their lives as a tribute to the Confederacy.

The grandmother of the Duchess of Malborough was born in Falmouth in the house afterwards occupied by Dr. Rose. She was a relative of the "Fall Hill" Thorntons and the Forbes.

The old Dunbar house, completely effaced by fire about twenty-five years ago, was famous for its beautiful grounds and frontal garden and conservatory, woodwork and exquisite furniture. The last owner, of the

name Miss Anna Dunbar, a great-granddaughter of Lady Spottswood, died there in extreme old age and it passed to others.

"Belmont," on the edge of the town, now owned by the celebrated artist, Gari Melchers, was built for Susannah Knox, nee Fitzhugh, by her father, Fitzhugh, of Chatham. Her tomb is still in Falmouth cemetery. Between this and the present brick church there was once an old colonial church, long since moldered to decay. It was of wood, built in the form of a cross, and above the Carter pew the family coat of arms was blazoned. It was destroyed by fire or time's ravages more than a hundred years ago. In this same cemetery is buried one of the officers of Napoleon, a French nobleman, Count Herard, who fought through all the Napoleonic wars, and was exiled by Louis XVIII, as recorded on his tombstone. He and Lafayette embraced and kissed each other when they met on the occasion of Lafayette's visit here in 1824. Another old grave is that of Jean de Baptist, merchant. At that time Falmouth was a busy mart of commerce and strangers from many nations drifted into it.

An aged lady of this city, who died about forty years ago, said she went to a large ball when she was fifteen years old at the old Falmouth tavern or inn, given in celebration of some important occasion, probably the victory and peace of 1816, as the dates would correspond. Being her first ball she was particularly impressed by the beauty of the costumes worn by the ladies. She was Mrs. R. H. Carnichael.

Besides the extensive milling operations of wheat and corn another important industry of Falmouth of former times was the manufacture of cotton goods. A large brick cotton factory was built and owned by Duff Green.

Moncure D. Conway, the eminent author, was a Falmouth man and this able and reliable antiquarian in *Magazine of American History*, Vol. 27, No. 3, page 186, says that the fort on the Rappahannock river was on the north side of the river and that Falmouth was the center of the military district commanded by Major Lawrence Smith. He was empowered to execute "martial discipline among the soldiers so put in arms," both in times of war and peace, and with "two others of said privileged place," he was to hear and determine all cases, civil or criminal, that should arise in said limits, as a county court might do, and to make by-laws for the same.

The historic lustre of Falmouth and its business importance belong to the past, but doubtless a few years in future it will be incorporated in a Greater Fredericksburg, even as Manchester has been absorbed by Richmond, for this city is slowly but surely building out to meet it.

MRS. MARGARET L. SMITH.

HISTORIC PERIOD No. 5.

Fredericksburg Founded 1727—Col. Henry Willis—Col. Byrd's Visit—Thorntons, of Fall Hill.

Fifty-six years after the grant of 1671 the city of Fredericksburg was incorporated and named for Frederick, Prince of Wales, son of George II.

and its streets named for members of the royal family. In the meantime, John Buckner and Thomas Royston had died and the title of the Lease-lands were vested in their descendants or kinsmen, Robert Buckner and John Royston.

Settlers were coming in rapidly, but the act of the House of Burgesses 1727 speaks for itself: "Whereas, great numbers of people have of late seated themselves and their families upon and near the Falls, and great quantities of tobacco and other commodities are every year brought down to the upper landings to be transported to other parts of the country." "So we, the inhabitants of the county of Spottsylvania have made humble application to the General Assembly that a town may be laid out in some convenient place near the falls of said river."

In the meanwhile Col. Henry Willis had moved to this section and established himself on Willis Hill, now Marye's Heights. Col. Willis deserves a paper to himself, for he was a most interesting character. His ancestors were from Oxford, England, learned gentlemen of wealth and distinction. Francis Willis was the first who came to Virginia and he held various honored positions in the colony and died in England in 1691. He left the bulk of his large landed estates in Gloucester county to his nephew, Francis Willis (having no children of his own), who was the father of our Henry Willis, of Fredericksburg, also of Col. Francis Willis, of Gloucester. Henry Willis was born in 1691 and died on September 14, 1740. He married first Anne Alexander, widow of John Smith, of Purton. The earliest date mentioning him in the records of Spottsylvania is 1716 or thereabouts. His wife's aunt married one of the Buckners, and her first husband was one of Lawrence Smith's kinsmen. So their coming may have been a family affair. Anyway, Col. Henry was very much in evidence with his five children and his second wife, the widow Brown (Mildred Howell), whom he married the year before Fredericksburg was founded. She lived six years and left three children, one of whom, Elizabeth, is the ancestress of the Cobbs, of Georgia. Col. Willis married his third wife, Mildred Washington Gregory, two months after his second wife's death, and he was her third husband.

The trustees of Fredericksburg were John Robinson, Henry Willis, Augustine Smith (a relative of Henry Willis' first wife and nephew of Major Lawrence Smith), John Taliaferro (whose ancestor, Robert Taliaferro had taken up large grants of land on our river conjointly with our Major Lawrence Smith), Henry Beverly, John Waller and Jeremiah Clowder. Do we recognize some of the "Knights of the Golden Horse-shoe" in this company, and by the way, why didn't Col. Henry Willis go on that quest?

Well, we have gone far afield from the act of incorporation. It goes on to say that fifty acres belonging to John Royston and Robert Buckner were to be set apart and divided into lots, and that these two were to have a percentage off of each lot and were to be given two lots each. John Royston was to take as his two lots the land he had leased to William Livingstone, upon which had been erected home and improvements and

warehouses, which were doubtless the ones referred to in Spottsylvania records as the "Royston Warehouses."

The A. P. V. A. found out in 1916, through Mr. Clayton Torrance, of Richmond, that these lots were on Water (Sophia) street, between Commerce (Prince William) and Amelia and that was really the earliest improved part of the town and so described by Col. William Byrd on his visit in 1732 to "Col. Henry Willis's new town of Fredericksburg."

William Livingstone died in 1729, but his wife, Susannah (called elsewhere Sukey Livingston), was there, as doctress and coffee woman. All the buildings were of wood except the prison, "which is strong enough to hold Jack Sheppard." Can't we think that the big stone building, with barred windows, near the bridge was this prison? It is conjectured to have been a tobacco warehouse, but it is much more like a jail. Sukey Livingston, by the way, bought herself a lot or two lots, also land in the county. She had no children and left her property to Philip Rootes, who had grants of land in this locality, and also was a connection by marriage of these same Smiths.

The Thorntons, of Fall Hill, came from Francis Thornton, of Caroline, who acquired land "near the Falls of the Rappahannock" in 1720. His son, Francis, married Frances Gregory, daughter of Mildred Washington and Roger Gregory, and they lived at Fall Hill as early as 1736. They were gentlefolk, with means and education, and their descendants have been among Fredericksburg's leading people, as well as scattered abroad to "make other States great."

So in this locality were not a few families with birth, breeding, beauty and books (some of these are still extant), and they enjoyed life in spite of the rough surroundings, for they had good servants, good food and good company.

HISTORIC PERIOD No. 6.

St. George's Church—Parson Marye—The Washington, Etc.

On April 10, 1732, Col. Willis contracted to build two churches, one in Fredericksburg and one on the Mattaponi. Col. Byrd tells us that during his visit to Col. Willis' "Parson Kemmer edified us with his company." The reverend gentleman had been gotten rid of by his vestry in a very unceremonious manner by giving him notice—"That he need not give himself any further trouble to come and preach in the parish." He was the rector of the earliest church up on Mine Run.

The first rector of St. George's church was Patrick Henry, uncle of the orator, but he only remained two years, not long enough for his nephew and namesake to visit him and "run about these streets barefooted," as was announced here once by an imported speaker. He was succeeded by Rev. James Marye, a Huguenot, from the settlement in Goochland. He and his son, James Marye, Jr., held this pastorate for forty-six years and were the ancestors of the Marye family of this section of Virginia. Parson Marye was a classical scholar and kept a school, frequented

by many men, who afterwards achieved distinction. This school is said to have been on the square opposite the Baptist church. As both preacher and teacher he served well his day and generation.

Augustine Washington had bought land in Stafford county in 1722, and when, in April, 1735, Wakefield was burned, he and his wife and three small children, George, Betty and Samuel, established themselves at Pine Grove (also called the Ferry Farm), opposite Fredericksburg. Recently it has been said that they went first to Hunting Lodge (Mt. Vernon), another of Augustine Washington's plantations, but did not remain long, as the vicinity of Fredericksburg offered more attractions. In the first place, Mary Washington's half sister, Hannah Travers, lived in Stafford county, and Mrs. Washington had strong family affections. Then there were advantages of church and school both in Falmouth and Fredericksburg.

Some writers represent the Washingtons as belonging to a church in Overwharton Parish, but it seems more likely that they crossed the river to St. George's. Though, as George went to school to Master Hobby, in Falmouth, they may have gone there to church too, and Augustine Washington's name is not in the list of St. George's vestrymen.

The plantation adjoining the Washingtons in Stafford belonged to the Strothers, and little Jane Strother was one of George's early sweethearts. The first ferry authorized by law between Stafford and Fredericksburg was in 1748 and was between the land of Anthony Strother and the tobacco warehouse (the stone building by the bridge). Augustine Washington owned three lots in Fredericksburg, 33, 34 and 40. Lawrence, the elder half-brother, made a present of his share in them to his brother George.

But to return to an earlier date. After the Washingtons settled in Stafford there were three more children, John Augustine, Charles and little Mildred, who died when she was fourteen months old. Here, just across the river, all of Geo. Washington's youth was spent; here he cut down the cherry tree and here he threw the dollar (Spanish) across the river. After Master Hobby, of Falmouth, and a Mr. Williams, perhaps of Tappahannock, he went to school to Parson Marye in Fredericksburg, and here his first cousin, Lewis Willis, (son of Henry Willis and Mildred Washington) testifies to his "industry and assiduity." While his brother Samuel and his comrades were at "Bandy" or other games "he was behind the door ciphering." His romping once with one of the larger girls "excited no little comment among the other lads."

Henry Willis died in 1740 and three others of the original trustees of Fredericksburg had either died or resigned, so in 1742 Augustine Washington was elected trustee or feoffee of the town. Perhaps that was why he bought the lots. On April 20, 1743, Augustine Washington died, after a brief illness, of rheumatic gout.

But to return. In 1738 the House of Burgesses passed a law authorizing fairs to be held in Fredericksburg twice a year "For the sale of cattle, provisions, goods, wares and all kinds of merchandise." Fine gatherings these for all the surrounding counties.

In 1739 the trustees found it necessary to buy land from Henry Willis

and John Lewis and enlarge the original boundries of the town. About this time they began to build better houses.

We don't know when Fielding Lewis moved into this section. He was of a distinguished family, the son of John Lewis, of Gloucester, and Frances Fielding. His first wife was Catherine Washington, said to have been an aunt of George Washington. However, Augustine Washington's only recorded sister was Mildred, but his brother John had a wife named Catherine, and as he died early and without children his widow, Catherine Washington, may have married Fielding Lewis. But this is purely conjectural. Who was Catherine Washington? By this marriage there was one son, John. Colonel Lewis' second wife was Bettie Washington, whom he married in 1750 and for whom he built Kenmore, so named by the Gordons. What was Kenmore's original name? Bettie Washington had thirteen children and they were all brought up right here in this community and every one of them turned out well and their descendants have been useful, patriotic, distinguished citizens in many localities.

George Washington left home when he was fifteen, but he was often a visitor, and Charles Washington lived here many years. He built and owned the "Rising Sun Tavern" and was a vestryman of St. George's in 1766.

Many families had moved into Fredericksburg and the surrounding country and names prominent then are some of them still prominent—John Taliaferro, Robert Carter, Larkin Chew, William Bernard, Charles Dick, (evidently a universal friend, for he was god-father, guardian, executor, witness and vestryman oftener than nearly anyone in the records). Then there was John Allen, a rich old bachelor, and Roger Dixon, another friendly man, after whom Dixon street was named; Doctor Mortimer, beloved physician, who built General Wheeler's house in 1764; Doctor Hugh Mercer, who fought at Colloden and lived next to Charles Dick, whose house on Princess Anne street, now occupied by Mr. Masters, is the oldest home in Fredericksburg—built in 1745.

Sometime between 1730 and 1740 John Gordon moved here. He was not one of the merchant princes of Falmouth, but he had a capable and intelligent wife, and dying left her executrix of his entire estate and guardian of his two little girls, Catherine and Isabella. The young Scotchman, Hugh Mercer, fell in love with Isabella and married her and George Weedon married Catherine.

There were Crutchfields, Frenches, Pattons, Minors, Hollidays (John Holliday came to this country in 1702, and he, his son and grandson held the position of tobacco inspector for Fredericksburg for more than fifty years); Stannards, Spottswoods, all living in the county by this time, and other names equally well known.

Philip Fithian, tutor at Nomini Hall, mentions the races at Fredericksburg in his diary. This was the gathering place for all the youth, beauty and fashion of the surrounding country. Though the country people did hold themselves vastly above those who lived in town, and did so up to the period of the War Between the States.

HISTORICAL PERIOD No. 7.

Revolutionary Times.

The Revolution really began long before the fighting. The historian, Baneroft, says, "That in 1761, when the liberties of the American people were menaced by the Stamp Act, Virginia was among the first of the colonies to memorialize the King in opposition." The celebrated "Resolutions of the Association of Westmoreland" were prepared by Richard Henry Lee and were passed at Leedstown, February 27, 1766, and were signed by one hundred and sixteen gentlemen, assembled from all parts of the adjacent counties. There are seven well known names from Fredericksburg and vicinity: Lewis Willis, Francis Thornton, Jr., Samuel and Charles Washington, Samuel Selden, Charles Mortimer, Robert Carter, of Falmouth, and probably others.

The Rising Sun Tavern, where Geo. Weedon had the postoffice of the town and was "mine host," was looked upon as a hot-bed of sedition, for there the patriots gathered almost nightly. Here George Washington often joined them, and here it was that he recorded in his diary that he had played cards and lost "as usual," and was afraid that those Fredericksburg fellows were "too smart for him."

Judge Brooke in his narrative tells of two visits of George Washington about this time. He came to Smithfield with General Spottswood, Governor Spottswood's grandson, looking very handsome in the full uniform of an English Colonel. He was out all day with the young men and servants testing the dogs and racing the horses. He was here again in 1774 to review the "Independent Companies." There is a record as early as 1753 of an Independent Company of Foot, composed of the gentlemen of the town. After the review they gave him a collation in the Market House, where he had all the boys of a large grammar school, taught by a Mr. Lamegan (an Irish college graduate), brought to him and gave them each a drink of punch, and patted them on their heads and asked them if they could fight for their country.

Lewis Willis had succeeded his father at "Willis Hill." On account of his father's services to the church he was granted a free pew in St. George's. He was Mildred Washington's only son, was a strong, powerful man. His son, Byrd Willis testifies he was considered "The best man about" and could beat any man who cared to face him. He, like his father, married three times, first Mary Champe, by whom he had six children; he then married the widow of his brother-in-law, John Champe, who was Anne Carter, of Cleve, the sister to his son-in-law, Landon Carter, who married his daughter, Mildred. The following lines explaining the tangle of relationship in which Mildred was involved came out in the *Virginia Gazette*, signed Miss L. D., Fredericksburg—"Bright Girl!

"My husband's my uncle, my father's my brother—

"I also am sister unto my own mother—

"I am sister and aunt to a brother named John,

"To whom wit and good nature combined both belong,

"This paradox strange as it may be to you

"Any day that you please I can prove to be true."

Her brother, John, was afterwards Lieutenant, Captain and Major in the Revolutionary War.

Francis Thornton, Jr., had succeeded his father at Fall Hill and had married Anne Thompson, Lady Spottswood's daughter by her second husband, the Reverend John Thompson.

Richard Brooke lived at Smithfield, Samuel Selden at Salvington and Mann Page at Mannsfield.

Out in the county, some nine or ten miles from Fredericksburg, lived a farmer named John Clark, and two of his sons were destined to make history. George Rogers Clark, general of the forces on the Ohio, who conquered for the colonies the English and Indians at Vincennes, and William Clark, who, with Merriwether Lewis, undertook the magnificent adventure of exploring the great Northwest.

Fredericksburg and Falmouth both did a large business with Glasgow, Scotland, and among the settlers were many Scotchmen. William Paul, a merchant from Galloway, bought, in 1770, a half acre, for which he paid about six hundred dollars (one hundred and twenty pounds), a pretty good price. It was land once belonging to Roger Dixon, Gent., and was on the corner of Carolina and Prussia street. He died in 1773 and his brother John Paul came over to settle up his estate. While here he changed his name to Jones, because he did not want to be known to the British Navy, to which he had once belonged. From Fredericksburg he went to offer his services to the American Congress and became "Father of the American Navy." Captain Quinn and the Reverend R. R. Howison both attest to the truth of Fredericksburg's early Declaration of Independence, and to the gathering of six hundred men of the town and counties, who offered their services to defend Williamsburg immediately after the battle of Lexington. Prominent among them were three, who were afterwards Generals George Weedon, Hugh Mercer and Gustavus B. Wallace—a sketch of the later is given below:

From the county went General George Rogers Clark and General Thomas Posey—seven generals in all from this locality. Other officers were Col. Thomas Minor, Col. Lewis Willis, Col. Fielding Lewis, etc., Major Churchill Jones, afterwards of Chatham; Major Robert Forsythe, who lived on the corner of Prince Edward and Fauquier streets and was father of John Forsythe, the noted Statesman from Georgia. Dr. *Richard Brooke* was surgeon on John Paul Jones' ship, the "Bon Homme Richard."

Fielding Lewis had several sons with various ranks, and speaking of this brings us to the story of "The Gunnery" to be given in our next.

Col. Gustavus Brown Wallace was born at Eilerslie, Stafford county, Virginia, November 9, 1751, and died unmarried, August 17, 1802. He entered the Continental Army in 1775 as captain. With the reduction of Charleston, S. C., in 1780 he and his regiment were captured, as per Governor Nelson's letter to Cornwallis.

In 1802 he went to Scotland and during his return contracted typhus fever on board a ship. He died a few days after reaching Fredericksburg and was buried in the Masonic graveyard there. He was a member of the Society of Cincinnati in 1784. He is said to have been acting brigadier-

general at one time during the Revolutionary War. A red British sash, which he purchased in Scotland in 1775 and wore through the Revolution, is now in the possession of Dr. G. M. Wallace, of Stafford. It bears the stains of blood. He had five brothers, all officers in the Revolutionary Army.

"The Gunnery."

The Virginia Convention of July, 1775, among other far seeing acts, ordered the establishment of a Manufactory of Small Arms in Fredericksburg, and named Fielding Lewis, Charles Dick, Mann Page, William Fitzhugh and Samuel Selden, or any three of them, commissioners. This is said to have been the first gunnery established in the colonies. Did the vicinity of Governor Spotswood's iron mines have anything to do with the works being put in Fredericksburg? It was directed that a sufficient number of artificers be employed to manufacture such arms from time to time as the Committee of Safety should require. And an appropriation was made of twenty-five hundred pounds, a sum at that time having the purchasing power of eighteen or twenty thousand dollars.

What was the matter with Messrs. Fitz-Hugh, Page and Selden does not appear in the records, but they were never again alluded to. The whole work devolved on Col. Lewis and Charles Dick, and nobly did they do their part. In the records on file in Richmond there are twenty-five letters of Charles Dick and one at least from Col. Lewis, which make very interesting reading, for they reveal the personality of these men, as well as rendering their accounts and recording the progress of their work. The two commissioners purchased from Richard Brooke, of Smithfield, a tract of land adjoining the town of Fredericksburg, with a "noble spring" (the Gunnery Spring, and we all know what a noble spring it is), "and a spacious garden, which supplies necessary greens and roots." Then they proceeded to erect at least two buildings, with sheds and outhouses necessary. They built and established the factory and had it in running order in less than one year, "after much trouble and attention." "It was an extraordinarily good factory."

For the use of the factory the commissioners also leased from Mrs. Lucy Rootes Dixon (widow of Roger Dixon, and daughter of Major Philip Rootes, of Boswell, King and Queen county), a mill house on Hazel Run, which was converted to the use of grinding bayonets.

The running expenses were estimated at (2,958 pounds) two thousand and nine hundred and fifty-eight pounds annually, which included stock, a master workman and thirty others, besides negroes to do the drudgery and work the garden, rent for the mill and extras.

All the workmen took their dinners daily at the Gunnery, hence the need for a "spacious garden."

They turned out one hundred stand of arms a month, besides much repair work. In one of Chas. Dick's letters to Thomas Jefferson, Governor of Virginia, he says: "I have just time to acquaint you that the gentlemen of this town, and even the ladies, have very spiritedly attended at the Gunnery and assisted to make up already about twenty thousand cartridges with bullets, with which the Spotsylvania militia and the

militia from Caroline have been supplied." Fredericksburg has never failed in patriotism, and Fredericksburg women have certainly done their part in three wars, as all can testify.

But the most remarkable part is that Col. Lewis and Mr. Dick managed to run this vital institution under the abnormal condition of a deranged treasury. Patriots to the core, these noble Fredericksburg men "threw themselves in the breach," underpaid and mostly unpaid, for their services. They staked their personal fortunes to run the factory. In a letter from Col. Lewis, dated February 9, 1781, he says that except for his advances "the factory must have been discontinued, and that he had put in seven thousand pounds; all that I had at that time on hand." Not many months later Col. Lewis died (he is buried under the chancel of St. George's church), and after that the responsibility of the enterprise fell on Charles Dick. His letters show the tremendous effort he was putting forth. He sacrificed his means as well as his time and strength and was faithful to the minutest detail.

When the war was over the factory was turned over to the town of Fredericksburg to found an academy for the instruction of the youth of the place. Thus were "The swords turned into plowshares." Later the academy was sold and the money turned over to the Episcopal Charity School. When we came here first, in 1881, no one could tell us the reason for the name Gimmery Spring. The tradition is "He who drinks of the water, no matter where he may wander, will certainly come back to Fredericksburg."

Lossing, in his "Mary and Martha Washington," gives a short account of this manufactory of small arms, which until recently seems to have been sunk in oblivion.

Largely, I believe, through Mr. Clayton Torrance (from whom I have quoted freely), who found out these facts from these old letters, the Sons of the American Revolution, in 1916, placed a tablet above the spring giving its history.

Masons.

In a transcription of this kind some occurrences will get left out of their proper order, and we wish specially to go back to 1752, when Masonry was first established in Fredericksburg, Lodge No. 4, A. F. & A. M. The number shows its early origin among the Masons of the colonies and its establishment is a fine indication of the character of the founders of our city, for Masonry stands for integrity, ability and education.

Parson Marye was a Mason belonging to this lodge and there were many distinguished men of this period whose names are on its records. George Washington, on one of his visits to his mother, after he had been sent by Governor Dinwiddie as a special envoy to the French on the Ohio, to protest against their overstepping the boundaries and building forts on English territory, was made a Mason, when only twenty-one years old, in this lodge November 4, 1752, and they still have in their possession, as a precious relic, the Bible used in this ceremony.

While we are talking of the patriots of Fredericksburg we must not

forget there were others who, from conscientious motives, or dread of change, or fear of consequences, were still loyal to King George. They had their gatherings, too, and, as it is the prosperous people who are generally satisfied with existing conditions, their meetings were attended by some of the most substantial citizens. Again there were some who were too prudent to connect themselves with either side—"Lookers on in Venice." Perhaps they had the worst of it after all.

Returning to the thread of our story, while there is little definite to record in the three years of warfare, we know that our city throughout this period was a center of distinction. James Mercer, a Fredericksburg lawyer, chief justice of general courts held in Richmond, writes: "There is not one spot in the State so generally useful in our military operations."

That General Washington kept in touch with his mother and sister is evidenced by the story of the courier sent with the dispatch announcing the fact that he had crossed the Delaware. Mrs. Washington was in her garden, which at that time occupied the whole square, and was the joy and pride of her heart, when the courier rode up, splashed with mud and followed by a crowd anxious for the news from the front. She finished her task of digging up some plants or shrubs for a waiting neighbor, wiped her hands, broke the seal of the dispatch and announced to the impatient group outside "George had crossed the Delaware."

The spring of 1781 witnessed the shifting of forces among the British. The movements of the traitor, Arnold, in lower Virginia called for an increase of militia. Cornwallis threatened Richmond and Tarleton's raids caused anxiety, consternation and horror, for he was a leader full of dash and spirit and something of a wag besides.

The young Marquis de Lafayette, however, was equal to the occasion. With a handful of ragged militia, by a well conceived series of maneuvers, he led Cornwallis away from Richmond across the North Anna river, and the rumor was abroad that Fredericksburg was threatened, "that Cornwallis was coming." There was much at stake. Here was the manufactory of small arms, here in Falmouth were Hunters' iron works (there are still signs of the old forge), which made camp kettles for the soldiers, and besides a large supply of military stores.

General Weedon held command here. Long before this he had demonstrated his loyalty and efficiency. Lafayette sent him an order, "Collect the militia." In his letters he tells the story of these exciting days. He summoned King George and Stafford men to assemble on Hunter's Heights, the hills above Falmouth. He tells of the fleeing inhabitants and of the securing of the military stores. Everything of importance that could be was carted away. The town was almost deserted and the soldiers on the Stafford hills awaited they knew not what. In a letter to Col. Edwin Conway, commanding the Lancaster militia, which had also been summoned, General Weedon writes, June 10, 1781: "Inclosed I send you extract of Marquis' orders which first induced me to call you. The enemy were advancing rapidly and this quarter seemed to be their object." "Their operations, pointing to another, leaves room to suppose we shall not be visited this time."

Cornwallis surrendered a few months later, October 19, 1781, at Yorktown and the articles of surrender were drawn up at "Temple Farm," where lived Augustin Moore, a grandson of our Governor Spotswood, and his wife Lucy, a great-granddaughter of our Major Lawrence Smith.

HISTORIC PERIOD No. 8.—1781-1791.

Peace Ball—Fredericksburg's Charter, Etc.

The story of the Peace Ball is so familiar that it seems hardly worth while to dwell upon it. The date has been under discussion, some authorities making it as late as 1783. We know that Marquis Lafayette went back to France after the 23d of November, 1781, and did not return until 1784. Yet he, with Count Rochambeau and Count D'Estaing and Admiral De Grasse, were certainly at a ball and at Dr. Mortimer's "big dining" the next day. We are inclined to think that Mrs. Terhune has it straight. In her "Story of Mary Washington" she says: "On the afternoon of November 12, 1781, Washington arrived in Fredericksburg, with his staff of French and American officers, en route from Yorktown to Philadelphia."

George Washington Parke Curtis, who at least got his information at first hand, says: "After an absence of nearly seven years it was at length, on the return of the combined armies, permitted to the mother to see and embrace her illustrious son." Washington writes on his return to Mt. Vernon, 1783, that he had been absent nine years, so seven years would make the visit to the mother in 1781.

But after much painstaking research the occasion on November 12, 1781, seems to have been in the nature of a reception, and may have taken place at the Rising Sun Tavern, and General Lafayette may have slept there—all of which has been so often told. The Peace Ball seems to have been in December, 1783, in the assembly-room at the Market House, now the City Hall, and was attended by all the fashion, youth and beauty of all the counties adjoining. To the reception, November, 1781, Mrs. Washington came leaning on the arm of her son, but she went home before ten o'clock. The foreign officers were anxious to meet the mother of their chief and were duly impressed with her dignity and stately bearing. They said, "If such were the mothers of America it was no wonder that the sons were so illustrious."

Fredericksburg was incorporated in 1727, but it had no charter until 1781—granted then by the Assembly in Richmond. Doctor Chas. Mortimer was the first mayor, in 1782. John Minor, Jr., afterwards General John Minor, was the first Commonwealth's Attorney. He is buried in the center of the Masonic graveyard. His wife was Lucy Carter, of Cleve, a granddaughter of Col. Henry Willis. It is said he built Hazel Hill. He was the uncle of Matthew F. Maury and a man of mark, and was the first to offer to any legislative body of this country a bill for the emancipation of the slaves. This he did in 1782 in the General Assembly in Richmond. The bill called for the gradual emancipation, with compensation for the owners. His family, after his death, occupied the house now

owned by Mrs. Alice Coghill, and here Matthew Maury was often their guest.

Fredericksburg had many distinguished visitors at this period. It was on the main traveled road between North and South, and all the North and South Carolina and Georgia delegates passed through here on their way to Congress in Philadelphia, unless they went by sea.

General Nathaniel Green came here in 1780 on his way to take command of the army in the South. He was here again in 1783, when he received an ovation from the citizens and an elegant letter from Dr. Mortimer, to which General Green replied in the same elegant diction.

We have Judge Brooke as an authority for saying that General Horatio Gates, hero of Saratoga, lived here for one year after the war was over. Judge Brooke says: "I was very intimate with him, a man of fine manners, a fine camp officer, but not qualified to command an army."

Judge Brooke gives an account of a visit from General Washington and says he was often here to see his mother and widowed sister. He attended a ball given on the 22d of February, opened it by dancing a minuet with some lady, then danced cotillions and country dances, was very gallant and always attached himself, by his attentions, to the most beautiful and attractive ladies at the ball. The narrative goes on to tell of a dinner given the next day, when Jack Stuart, "a great vocalist," sang a song at which George Washington laughed immoderately and encored.

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The first Fredericksburg newspaper, the *Virginia Herald and Fal-Mouth Advertiser*, was started by Timothy Green in 1786 and continued under the name *Virginia Herald* until 1875—eighty-nine years.

It was during this period that President Monroe settled in Fredericksburg. His worth was evidently appreciated, for he was a member of the council and held other offices. He bought a house on Princess Anne street (though he never lived there), so he might be elected to the Virginia Assembly, and from here he started on his political career. His law office on Charles street is well known. He was licensed to practice law at the same time with Robert Brooke and Bushrod Washington. Robert Brooke became the Governor of the State and Bushrod Washington was a chief justice. James Monroe was first district attorney of this section.

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April 14, 1789, George Washington paid his last visit to his mother before he started to New York to be inaugurated as President. She was in the advanced stages of cancer and knew she would never see him again. She died in August of that same year and the whole community and countryside gathered to do her honor.

Dr. Charles Mortimer and Dr. Elisha Hall were her physicians. Dr. Mortimer is buried in the middle of Hurkamp Park.

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mersion silenced her. She returned through the same streets, in the same gig, as quiet as a lamb."

Lewis Littlepage died here July 19, 1802, and is buried in the Masonic Cemetery. He was only forty years old, but his life had been one of high adventure in various courts of Europe. He went to Madrid in 1779-80 under the patronage of John Jay, minister to Spain. In Dr. Philip Slaughter's "St. Mark's Parish," there is a letter from him, from Altona, Denmark, dated January 9, 1801, to his cousin, Lewis Holliday, of Spottsylvania, giving a full account of his career. His highest office was Lord High Chancellor of the King of Poland, Stanislaus Augustus, of whom he speaks as "My friend, my master, my more than father." He only lived in Fredericksburg for a little more than a year. His numerous orders and insignia are in the possession of the Holliday family. Matthew F. Maury had more, but Fredericksburg can lay claim to both of these men so crowned with European honors.

HISTORIC PERIOD No. 10.—1804-1820.

There is a very good story told of this period which can be enjoyed in these later days of Chappawamsic Swamp fame, and is worth telling. Thomas Moore, on his visit to America in 1805, when he wrote his poem about the Dismal Swamp, passed through Fredericksburg on his way to visit his cousin, William Bowden, who lived in Petersburg. After braving the dangers of the road from Quantico and struggling with the unusual Indian names, he gave vent to his feelings in the following couplet:

"Chappawamsic Rappahannock!

"Make the knees of bravest man knock."

Thus far we have failed to record Fredericksburg in the struggle for religious liberty. Virginia had always been loyal to the Crown and to the Episcopal church, which was supported by the State. Each rector received 16,000 pounds of tobacco every year, levied by the sheriff from the parishioners. Ministers' tobacco always sold cheap, because of the different grades in the same lot. According to the price of tobacco, this yielded from two to four hundred dollars; besides they had the Glebe land from which they were supposed to raise corn and hay and the year's supply of vegetables and fruit.

Virginia has always been liberal and reasonable, and for a hundred years Presbyterians, under Francis Makenie and Samuel Davies, were tolerated and gained a foothold. Methodists came into Georgia with John Wesley, and from there spread over the Colonies.

It is pretty certain that the wonderful George Whitfield preached here on his way to Philadelphia. Hon. Seymour White alludes to this in an early issue of *The Free Lance*.

Father Kobler, of sainted memory, organized the Methodist church here in 1785, though, like the early Christians, for many years they met from house to house.

In 1768 Lewis Craig (who afterwards went to Kentucky with the Traveling church), John Waller and James Chiles, Baptist preachers, were seized by the sheriff of the county, tried by three magistrates in the yard of St. George's church and confined in jail for "preaching the gospel contrary to law." They were kept in confinement for several weeks and preached from the jail windows to the crowd gathered below. This jail was on the corner of George and Princess Anne, facing Princess Anne, and was the handsomest jail in Virginia. Patrick Henry, apostle of religious liberty, pleaded their cause and they were finally released. "The blood of the martyrs is the seed of the church," and the Baptist church, organized here by the Rev. Andrew Broaddus in 1804, is the largest body of Christian in this community. ?

But this was not the only persecution the Baptists had to endure in Fredericksburg. In 1816, when Garret Minor was mayor, two Baptist preachers came here and preached with great power to crowds down on the river bank. The servants got passes and attended in large numbers, but, worn out by excitement, were so lax in their daily duties that the services were pronounced a nuisance. The preachers were arrested, and some say publicly whipped. Any rate they were put in jail and then released and sent out of town, and as they passed across the Chatham toll bridge and over the Stafford hills they shook the dust off of their feet and said: "Let not this town grow any more for one hundred years." And it is coincidental that the commission form of government, which has done so much to improve and develop our city, went into effect just about one hundred years after the "curse" was pronounced.

Mr. Quim says that the Statute of Religious Liberty was written in a room of the "Indian Queen," which stood where Cassiday's drug store is now, in 1785. Until 1804 only an Episcopal minister was allowed to perform marriage ceremonies. If you didn't want him you must go to a justice of the peace.

The Presbyterian preacher, Rev. Samuel B. Wilson, came here in 1805 and the church was organized in 1807. Miss Anne Carter has written a delightful little pamphlet giving an account of Presbyterian beginnings.

What is believed to have been the first Sunday School in Virginia was organized here in 1816 under Dr. S. B. Wilson, of the Presbyterian church, and the first superintendent was Mrs. Anne James.

Rev. Dr. Edward McGuire came to St. George's in 1812 and was rector for forty-six years. His wife was a daughter of Robert Lewis and a granddaughter of Bettie Washington.

It was at this time, during the War of 1812, that the marauder, Admiral Cockburn, made a raid up the mouth of the Rappahannock and the country all up and down the river was stricken with terror. General William Madison, brother of the President, commanded a small force in this section. And there is an old record at the courthouse telling how he appropriated the military stores that were here to equip the men. Fortunately Admiral Cockburn found fairer fields to despoil and the danger was averted. Col. Stapleton Crutchfield, of the county, was a brave defender of our coasts (his people are still here), and we have with us now the

descendants of General Tobias E. Stansbury and Commodore Josiah N. Barney, distinguished officers in the War of 1812. Peace was declared December 24, 1814, and some time in January, 1816, there was a big Peace Ball in Falmouth.

There was a fearful fire in 1808. It started at the Stanards, who lived where the Shepherd home now stands, in the kitchen where they were baking cake for Mr. Larkin Stanard's funeral. (Big refreshments were served at funerals in those days. They tied the stems of the wine glasses with black crepe and the cake was wrapped in white paper, sealed with black sealing wax.) It burned everything on the hill except the stone part of the Masters house. It burned both sides of Main street down to Amelia and then down Water street to old Shiloh church. The Royston warehouses, which had stood for one hundred years, were destroyed by this fire. Then the sparks flew across the river and set fire to the out-houses and hay stacks at the Ferry Farm.

The first Ladies' Missionary Society in Virginia, and the second in the South, was here in Fredericksburg in the Baptist church in October, 1814. Miss Basiline Prince, great-granddaughter of Thomas Reade Roots, found the constitution and by-laws among some old letters. Dr. J. S. Dill, pastor of the Baptist church, secured them and they are now in the Baptist Historical Society of Richmond. Adoniram Judson, the great Baptist Missionary, had preached in Fredericksburg just before this time.

HISTORIC PERIOD No. 11.—1820-1840.

In 1820 Major Robert Lewis, son of Bettie Washington Lewis, was elected Mayor of Fredericksburg. So acceptably did he fill the position, and so highly esteemed was his good wife, that when he ran for re-election the ladies of the town were told that if he was defeated the beloved pair would have to move elsewhere. They were deeply stirred, and on the fateful day they held a fast and all-day prayer meeting at the home of Mrs. Leonard Patterson, on Gunnery Green. Mrs. Minor was there and Mrs. Mercer, Mrs. Stone, Mrs. Welford, the Misses Lomax, etc. When, in the late afternoon, Major Lewis' victory was announced the good ladies arose from their knees and went into a bountiful supper of broiled shad, cold ham, hot rolls, batter cakes, pound cake and peach preserves. Fredericksburg always did know what was good in meals and mayors.

On November 27, 1824, General Lafayette came again to Fredericksburg with his son, George Washington. He was met at the "Wilderness Tavern" by a guard of honor. Major Thomas Minor, of the county, was marshal of the parade. He had fought with Lafayette during the Revolution and knew him intimately. The people for miles around came to greet him and there was a wonderful parade. Forty little girls, dressed in white, with red sashes and blue ribbons, with flags in their hands, sang the following welcome:

"Our Father has dared the wild strife of the sea
 "And come to the home and hearts of the free;
 "The shouts of a nation attend on his march,
 "And the fair hands of beauty his pathway o'er arch."

These words were given us by Miss Mary Green Brown in 1900. She was one of the little girls. He was welcomed by Major Robert Lewis and was entertained by Mr. James B. Ross in a large, handsome house which stood on the corner of the square, now occupied by the public school. There was a large reception given in his honor in the Market House, where wine and brandy flowed freely.

I take from an old manuscript the description of the reception given that night in the Ross drawing-room. "It was the most elegant room I ever saw, with its marble mantels, gilded cornices and sconces on the wall, with tall glass shades to keep the wax candles from flickering. Col. Stapleton Crutchfield, of the War of 1812, and Major Hugh Patton introduced the visitors. The next day was Sunday. General Lafayette and his son attended St. George's church and visited the Masonic Lodge, of which he was an honorary member. When he left town Major Lewis and his daughter accompanied him in a barouche to Aquia landing, where a steamer was waiting to take him to Washington." The expense account for the entertainment of General Lafayette is at the Court House and is most interesting. Major Minor was an old man, and when the festivities were over he returned to his home and died a few days after. He was the grandfather of Ben Blake Minor, who succeeded Mr. White as owner and editor of the *Southern Literary Messenger*.

Brompton was built on a part of "Willis Hill" by the Maryes in 1818. Chatham was owned by Mr. Churchill Jones and afterwards by his brother, William Jones. The Ficklen Mills were established by Mr. Joseph B. Ficklen as far back as 1790, and all the intricate complication of interests involved in the Ficklen and Thornton estates and the water power and the Falmouth toll bridge date back to this period.

Col. Byrd Willis, grandson of Col. Henry Willis, lived at Willis Hill. A most interesting character. He married a daughter of George Lewis, of Marmion. His daughter Catherine had married Atchison Gray, of Traveler's Rest, at the age of thirteen, and at the age of sixteen returned to her father's house a widow. Col. Willis says of himself that "he could tell a good story or sing a good song," but was a bad manager, and his affairs became so involved that, in 1821, he sold his property, paid his debts in full and moved to Pensacola, Florida, where he had received a government appointment. There were no railroads, so he, with his family and servants, traveled through the country, visiting various relatives on the journey. Athens, Georgia, still remembers the very large, very jolly Col. Willis, who visited his cousin, John Addison Cobb, nearly one hundred years ago.

In Florida his charming daughter, Mrs. Gray, met Prince Achille Murat at a picnic, and he really did drink wine out of her slipper. He was the son of Caroline Bonaparte and Prince Joachim Murat, King of Naples. After his father's tragic end he came to Florida and bought a large estate near Tallahassee, which he called Lipona, after his mother, Caroline, of Lipona. Catherine Gray married the ex-prince in Washington in the summer of 1826, and President John Quincy Adams was the first to salute the bride. The Murats visited Europe and were received every-

where with great distinction. In England, in an art gallery, standing under the portrait of Napoleon and Washington, hung side by side, John Randolph, of Roanoke, who was their escort, said: "Before us we have the pictures of Bonaparte and Washington—one the founder of a great empire and the other of a great republic, and behold we have in the Princess Murat the niece of both. A distinction she alone can claim." Prince Murat died in 1847 and she survived him twenty years. They are both buried in Tallahassee, Florida. Col. Byrd Willis returned to Fredericksburg in 1836, and lived down on Main street between Hanover and George, which at that time was a great social center. He died in 1846, is buried in the old Willis graveyard adjoining the National Cemetery.

Sometimes about 1828 James Gordon Bennett lived here. He was a Scotchman, who landed in Charleston, S. C., in 1819. Went from there to Fayetteville, S. C., then came to Fredericksburg for a year or two and went from here to Warrenton. In each place he tried to run a paper and failed. Finally he went to New York in 1835, started the *New York Herald* and his success is a part of history. His newspaper office was on Main street about where the Virginia cafe now stands.

Matthew F. Maury came here first in 1825 to visit the family of his uncle, Gen. John Minor, on his way to fill his appointment to the United States Navy. He fell in love with his cousin, Anne Herndon, daughter of Dabney Herndon, a banker, who built and owned the bank, now the First National Bank, and he and his attractive family lived there. He died and little Anne went to live with her aunt in the country and there the obscure midshipman married her. In 1836 an accident incapacitated him from active service and for six years he lived in the house on Charlotte street, marked by the U. D. C. Here he wrote "Letters From a Lucky Bag" and from here he went to accept the position in Washington, where he became known as one of the greatest scientists the world has produced.

The story of Andrew Jackson's visit in May, 1833, and the laying of the corner-stone of the first Mary Washington Monument is too long and too familiar to insert here. Andrew Jackson was here and the Masons and the music and the military were much in evidence. Dr. John Wallace entertained the Presidential party in the house on Main street, known as the Wallace home, now remodeled and used as the wholesale dry goods house of Baker & Wallace. He gave a large reception that night, where refreshments, both liquid and substantial, were served in great abundance. The party came from Washington by steamer to Aquia Creek and then across the country. The railroad was not finished until 1836.

A private company, called The Aqueduct Company, brought the Poplar Spring water into the city in 1832. Fredericksburg was noted for its beautiful women, and it was said that they owed their lovely complexions to the pure water.

Judge Lomax lived where Judge Embrey lives now. One of his sisters was a poetress and published a volume in 1825. He had a flourishing law school, which he taught in the basement of his home. Mrs. A. A. Little taught a female academy at Federal Hill, afterwards in the Ross house and then where Mr. Masters now lives. Dr. S. B. Wilson had taught a

school in his home at the Mary Washington House, and there were several boys' schools besides. There was always a high regard for education in this community.

HISTORIC PERIOD No. 12.—1840-1861.

Many distinguished people have visited this place, beginning with Capt. John Smith and Col. Byrd, Patrick Henry, James Madison, John C. Calhoun, John Randolph, of Roanoke, Thomas Moore—their name is legion. Charles Dickens was here in 1842. Mr. Geo. Shepherd, Sr., was a little boy then and remembered his visit. He stopped at the Exchange Hotel, now the Manry, kept by Mr. Green. He did not like us; he had soured on the South on account of slavery. Daniel Webster came here during some great political excitement and visited the Bartons. He made a charming impression, especially on the children of the house. Henry Clay came here, and he was entertained in the home of Mr. John Scott. President Zachary Taylor was here and held a reception at the Exchange Hotel.

Washington Irving was here seeking information for his "Life of Washington," and Judge Coalter took him to Chatham to dinner. It was spring time and he sat down to jowl, turnip salad, poached eggs and corn pone, with dried cherry roll and hard sauce for desert. He was charmed and charming.

Senator Samuel Southard, Secretary of the Navy under President Monroe, was a man prominent in the building of the nation. He was here to visit his nephew, James Harrow, editor of the *Virginia Herald*. Dr. Beverly Welford gave, in honor of the ex-Secretary, what is said to have been the handsomest dinner ever given here. It was a full-dress occasion for gentlemen only. The service was perfect and a great abundance of delicious food and wine. Mr. Southard was stricken with apoplexy during the feast and died that night. The remains were carried to Philadelphia. A guard of honor, composed of distinguished men, came down from Washington and the funeral was the largest and most impressive ever known.

The material prosperity of Fredericksburg was substantial. Gas was introduced in 1843. Mr. William A. Jackson, who is said to have built the Doswell house, operated a large foundry back of Cassiday's drug store, afterwards owned by the Bowerings. He was a grandson of Major Thomas Minor and what we would call a promoter. He worked two gold mines up the country, pushed the silk worm industry and projected the canal, which was finished twenty-five or thirty miles up the Rappahannock. I quote from an old newspaper:

"The opening of the canal was celebrated by a procession and a demonstration. A long boat, called the Storrow, containing a band of music and a number of prominent citizens, was drawn through the streets on wheels by eight or ten fine horses, with much shouting, and launched in the Basin."

The canal has long been disused, but it brought down produce and

lumber from the up country and carried up implements, machinery, groceries, etc., for the use of the country residents.

Lieut. Smith, a kinsman of the Shepherds and Bucks, was killed during the Mexican War. Mr. Jackson was captain of the military company that conducted the burial services when the remains were brought home. Mrs. Mary Grant Small, who endowed our hospital, was the daughter of Capt. Jackson.

Mr. John G. Hurkamp came here some time in the fifties. He built up a large and successful leather business. He was a liberal, broad-minded citizen. He had a large family and a beautiful home, wherein he delighted to exercise an unbounded hospitality. Up to this period all tanning was done with imported Italian sumac, but Mr. Hurkamp experimented until he perfected a process by which American sumac could be used, and this was the beginning of the sumac industry of the Blue Ridge Mountains.

Long before 1840 Fredericksburg was deeply interested in colonization—the return of the colored people to Africa. Liberia was the outcome of this movement and the capital, Monrovia, was named for James Monroe, one of the promoters. The beloved gentlewoman—Old Mrs. John Minor, would send for Father Kobler and together they would pray for Africa. In 1840 her son, Lancelot Byrd Minor, and wife went as missionaries from St. George's church. Dr. Savage and his wife, Susan Metcalf Savage, had gone from here two years before. All fell victims to the treacherous African climate.

It must have been some time in the thirties that Mr. Caldwell, an actor, came here and met, loved and married Mrs. Deane, a widow, who had been Miss Hall. He tried to settle down and live here, but the call of the stage was too strong, and he returned to his profession, leaving his wife and at least one little boy here. This boy was Shakespeare Caldwell. He grew up to be supremely handsome and exceptionally charming. He loved the celebrated belle, Anne Carmichael, whose wit, daring and sweetness of disposition were only surpassed by her marvelous beauty. But the course of their love did not run smooth. He was poor and she was overpersuaded to marry another and died young. Mr. Caldwell's father, in some lucky moment had invested largely in Cincinnati gas stock, which became very valuable and made Shakespeare Caldwell an immensely wealthy man. He married in Kentucky and became a Roman Catholic. He endowed the "Little Sisters of the Poor" in Richmond, and in the endowment made some provision for Fredericksburg. His granddaughters contributed largely to the Roman Catholic University in Washington. They married abroad and some of their Fredericksburg relations have visited them. The only remaining descendant is a German count.

John Minor was the last here of General Minor's family. He lived alone for many years in what is now Mrs. Coghill's home. He was eccentric, but kindly, a friend to children, young people and struggling geniuses. He first discovered the talent of John Elder, the painter, and displayed his interest by raising among his friends the money for the young man to go abroad and study art. Elder did some fine portraits and attempted

some more ambitious pieces, but he was not steady and in the end became a helpless invalid. He died in Fredericksburg, having never fulfilled the promise of his youth. Mr. Minor was an intimate friend of Mr. Fred Coleman, that man of wonderful acquirements, with the power to impart his knowledge, owner and founder of Concord Academy, the first of Virginia's great boy's schools, of which Mr. Gordon McCabe has written so explicitly. Mr. Coleman spent his last days in this city and died in the red brick house opposite the public school. He and Mr. Minor and Mr. A. A. Little (Sandy Little), another brilliant intellect, would sit up and talk all night long and discuss learned and intricate questions—classical and political. "There were giants in those days." In Mr. Minor's last illness his neighbor, Mrs. Elliott Braxton, took him to her home and nursed him, and there he died. It was Mr. Minor who offered to Commodore Maury and family the refuge of his home when they fled from Washington in 1861.

Since the days of Sukey Livingston Fredericksburg had its Coffee House, and these men, and many other gentlemen of the town, went habitually to market and had an early cup of coffee in the Market House. The couplet over the door was as follows:

"Walk in gentlemen, sit at your ease.

"Pay for what you call for and call for what you please."

This coffee house custom was brought from England with the May Queen and the rhymed ring games. These games are more numerous and in greater variety here than any where else. I hope the children still play them, for they are an interesting survival. The May Queen ceremonial evidently came with the early settlers. It has always been observed here. For a long time Federal Hill was the place, when Mr. John Whittemore lived here with his attractive family of daughters. Later the May Queen was celebrated in the Chew garden and (until the place was sold) the children gathered there.

Captain William Lewis Herndon, brother-in-law of Matthew F. Maury, was born and brought up in Fredericksburg and became a midshipman at an early age. He saw and shared in all the improvements and advancements which Commodore Maury made, and in 1851 was commissioned to explore the Amazon river and make a map of its course. He published the results of his investigations in two volumes of surpassing interest. He was the first to explore the South American interior and led the way for von Humbolt and Agassiz. In 1857 his ship, the *Central America*, left Cuba on September 8th for New York with 107 passengers. They encountered a heavy gale and the ship sprung a leak. When it became known that she could not survive the storm, Capt. Herndon had all the women and children put into the life boats and as many men as they could carry. Then he went below, dressed himself in his full uniform and took his stand on the bridge with the United States flag in his hand. When the ship struck the outer edge of the Gulf stream she sank immediately and he perished with all his crew September 12, 1857. His daughter, Ellen, who married President Arthur, was born here in the home, which stood where Mr. A. W. Embrey now lives. President Arthur was a frequent visitor here when he was a young man.

In 1858 Dr. Edward McGuire, beloved rector of St. George's church for forty-six years, died and the vacancy caused by his death was hard to fill. The class of 1859-60 in the Theological Seminary of Alexandria had some prominent students. Mr. Phillips Brooks came here to preach a trial sermon. Mr. Brooks was from Boston, and the St. George's congregation would have none of him. They did not forecast his brilliant future. Instead they called Mr. A. M. Randolph, afterwards Bishop Randolph, of the same class, and were more than satisfied.

Dr. Francis A. March, afterwards president of Lafayette College, Pa., one of the great Anglo-Saxon students and philologists of the world, came here in 1852 to help Dr. McPhail, the Presbyterian preacher, who followed Dr. S. B. Wilson, teach a girls school. He was here five years and married Miss Mildred Conway, sister of Mr. P. V. D. Conway. They were the parents of General Peyton Conway March, of World War fame.

Dr. A. A. Hodge, afterwards of Princeton, distinguished theological thinker and writer, lived here and preached in the Presbyterian church for some years before 1861. He left when the hostilities began, because he had lived in India and remembered the Sepoy rebellion.

Fredericksburg was a favorite home for retired army and navy officers in their declining years. Our people were never a luxurious people, but they possessed a high moral standard and were a conscientious church-going, contented community, which demanded the best in character, conduct, culture, comfort, and I might say cooking.

The next period—the War Between the States—is still fresh in the minds of many now living and we will leave to some later historian the task of writing of the events after 1861. But we wish to call attention to two men whose services came during and after the reconstruction period in Virginia's greatest hour of need—the time when she ceased to be "District One" and became once more a State. Our Mr. John L. Marye was first Lieutenant-Governor after "carpet-bag rule," and our Major Elliott M. Braxton, about the same time was elected first Democratic representative to Congress from this district.

Also we would remember Mr. Seth Barton French, New York financier, who gave to Fredericksburg in ways both great and small, whenever the occasion or cause was brought to his attention. He gave the French Memorial Chapel to the Presbyterian church, with its beautiful Tiffany window, the second one made. His daughter, Mrs. Chas. Steele, has continued his good works.

Another Fredericksburg man of note of that period was Dr. Robert R. Howison, the historian.

There are doubtless those in our midst whose people did as much for this community as those who have been mentioned by name. To all such we offer our apologies. We are new comers; we have only lived here forty years. Honor is due to each one who has helped to make Fredericksburg what she is.

With this paper we close our condensed history with thanks to our readers and special thanks to *The Daily Star* and *The Free Lance* for unfailing patience, kindness and courtesy.

Below is a list of authorities which have been consulted in preparing these sketches of Fredericksburg.

Dr. Philip Slaughter's "St. Mark's Parish"; Bishop Meade's "Old Churches and Families"; Miss Dubellet's "Some Prominent Virginia Families"; Charles B. Willis' "History of the Willis Family"; Quinn's "History of Fredericksburg"; Howison's "History of Virginia"; Goolrick's "Life of General Mercer"; Mrs. Terhune's "Story of Mary Washington"; Mrs. Pryor's "Mary Washington"; Lossing's "Mary and Martha Washington"; Benedict's "History of the Baptists"; newspaper clippings and magazine articles, old letters and chronicles.



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